

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/099,717

Examiner

Cheukfan Lee

Applicant(s)

KOSHIMIZU ET AL.

Art Unit

2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an amendment filed January 11, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11, 13-19, and 21-25, now renumbered 1-23, respectively.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


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1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Brian Brown on March 15, 2006. Mr. Brown agreed that Figs. 1A and 1B are prior art figures as explained in the specification, page 1, lines 15-16.

2. **Please amend the drawings as follows:**

Label Figs. 1A and 1B with – PRIOR ART --.

3. Claims 20, 24 and 25, with claim 20 now canceled, were inadvertently left out from the statement (the first sentence) of the rejection set forth in section 4 of the previous Office Action dated November 2, 2005. Claims 20, 24 and 25 were addressed in the body of the rejection. Applicant's indication of the omission of claims 20, 24 and 25 is appreciated.

4. All pending claims 1-11, 13-19, and 21-25 are allowed. Claims 1, 7, 16, and 21 are independent.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

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Claims 1, 2, and 4 have been amended to overcome the objection set forth in the previous Office Action dated November 2, 2005. Claims 1-6 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objection. Claims 1-6 are therefore in condition for allowance.

Claim 8, depending on claim 7, has been amended to overcome the objection set forth in the previous Office Action

Claims 7 and its dependent claims 9 to 11 were allowed in the previous Office Action. Claim 8 as amended is also allowable.

The reasons for allowance for claims 1 and 7 given in the previous Office Action are still valid after the updated search and are repeated below.

Independent claims 1 and 7, and thus their dependent claims 2-6 and 8-11, are allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art does not teach a light guide plate as claimed that has a first light guide pattern for guiding light in the visible region and emitted by the first light source to an entire light-emitting surface and a second light guide pattern for guiding light in the invisible region and emitted by the second light source to the entire light-emitting surface, the first and second light sources being arranged at end faces (of the light guide plate).

Claims 2-6 and 8-11 depending on claims 1 or 7 are allowable for the reasons given for claims 1 or 7.

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Claims 16 and 21 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 16 and 21 were indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form. The reasons for allowance are still valid after the updated search and are repeated below.

Independent claims 16 and 21 are allowable over the prior art of record. Claims 16 and 21 each require that a light guide surface side of the light-emitting element substrate except for light-emitting apertures reflect light. Fujinawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,323,967) does not disclose or suggest such feature. In Fujinawa, the only surface of the substrate (board 2 in Fig. 2) that can be interpreted to be a light-guide surface side of the light-emitting element is the right end surface of the substrate (board 2) as viewed in Fig. 2. However, that right end surface does not have the LEDs mounted thereon and does not have LED apertures. The LED mounted surface of the substrate (board 2) which is an aluminum (reflective) substrate (col. 6, lines 11-13), is facing away from the light guide (22) (Figs. 2 and 6C).

Claims 13-15, 17-19 and 22-25 depending on claims 16 or 21 are allowable for the reasons given for claims 16 and 21.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheukfan Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-7407. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (571) 272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Cheukfan Lee
March 15, 2006



Cheukfan Lee